CONTROLLER STEVE WESTLY STATE OF CALIFORNIA

300 Capitol Mall Sacramento, CA 95814 916.445.3028 www.controller.ca.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 27, 2004

CONTACT: STEVEN FISHER OR LAURA ADLEMAN 916-324-2356

Westly Praises Tentative Safeway Agreement

The following is a statement from California State Controller Steve Westly to Safeway's Board of Directors urging them to end the grocers strike.

"I am pleased Safeway and its employees have reached a tentative pact. A resolution satisfactory to both sides can put this dispute behind us.

"Unfortunately, great damage has been done, and settling the strike is just the first step in rebuilding relations between workers, Safeway and their customers.

"Hundreds of workers lost their health care coverage and, in some cases, may also have lost their homes and other property. And Safeway and the other grocers must work to restore the faith of thousands of customers inconvenienced during the strike."